

Conservation of Lord Surya statue at Chhau, Kushinagar, Gorakhpur: Statue of Lord Surya was found during flattening of field in Chhau village, Kushinagar. A team from INTACH Conservation Institute, Lucknow was deputed for conservation of statue from 14th to 20th September 2018 at Sonmati Mata Temple. As per the condition of idol, methodology of conservation had been formed in order to decide conservation treatment i.e. detailed study of objects was carried regarding its dimension, examination of each part and loss of areas, detailed photography of the object was carried out, based on examination, a conservation treatment had been decided. Heavy dust and dirt deposition covered the figurative details. The statue had various stains, cementing ingrained deposition, a large crack was present on the left soldier of idol, upper part from the neck of idol was vertically broken in two parts, left lower area supporting finger of man was highly porous and details of fingers was missing. On the left side, three horse faces, right man's finger, lady's upper middle areas, main Lord Surya finger, lower jaw, left flower were also missing. The treatment involved dry brush cleaning, solvent cleaning with pH balance soap and ammonia solution, joining of broken pieces by dowelling and fixing steel screws with the help of epoxy resin and fine stone dust, after applying resin at the joints, the broken pieces were held together giving slight pressure for settling down both the pieces, after joining, visible gaps were filled with same powder and resin, finishing and smoothening uneven surface mechanically, restoration of face, lower jaw, left hand flower, left hand lower side 3 horse faces, porous parts on left and right side and finally application of protective coating.



Lord Surya statue before conservation



Same after conservation